

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A computer implemented method for grouping processors  
2 in a computer environment that includes a plurality of  
3 dissimilar processors, said method comprising:  
4 receiving a request from an application that is  
5 running on a first processor type;  
6 assigning one or more second processor types and a  
7 memory space to a group in response to the request,  
8 wherein the first processor type and the assigned  
9 second processor types are heterogeneous; and  
10 processing an application execution thread using the  
11 group, the application execution thread running on the  
12 first processor type and corresponding to the  
13 application.
- 1 2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the first  
2 processor type shares the memory space with the  
3 assigned second processor types.
- 1 3. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 identifying whether the application requests the  
3 memory space to be a private memory, wherein the  
4 private memory is accessible only by the assigned  
5 second processor types; and  
6 classifying the memory space as the private memory.
- 1 4. The method as described in claim 3 further comprising:  
2 retrieving data from the private memory using one of  
3 the assigned second processor types;

4 manipulating the data using one of the assigned second  
5 processor types, the manipulating resulting in  
6 resultant data; and

7 storing the resultant data in a shared memory, the  
8 shared memory accessible by the first processor type.

1 5. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 retrieving an affinity selection bit from the  
3 application;

4 determining whether the application requests affinity  
5 processor selection based upon the affinity selection  
6 bit; and

7 performing the assigning using affinity processor  
8 selection.

1 6. The method as described in claim 5 wherein the  
2 performing further comprises:

3 selecting one of the second processor types based upon  
4 the affinity processor selection;

5 determining whether the selected second processor type  
6 is available; and

7 performing the assigning based upon the selected  
8 second processor type's availability.

1 7. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 detecting that one or more of the second processor  
3 types are in use by an active execution thread;

4 identifying an active priority that corresponds to the  
5 active execution thread;

6        comparing the active priority to a requesting  
7        priority, the requesting priority corresponding to the  
8        application execution thread; and  
9        terminating the active execution thread if the active  
10       priority is lower than the requesting priority.

1    8.    The method as described in claim 1 wherein the group  
2        corresponds to one or more group properties, wherein  
3        the group properties are selected from the group  
4        consisting of a sharing mode, a priority, and a  
5        scheduling policy.

1    9.    The method as described in claim 1 wherein the group  
2        includes a plurality of second processors.

1    10.   The method as described in claim 1 wherein the first  
2        processor type is a processing unit and wherein the  
3        second processor types are synergistic processing  
4        units.

1    11.   An information handling system comprising:  
2        a plurality of dissimilar processors;  
3        a memory accessible by the plurality of dissimilar  
4        processors;  
5        one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by  
6        the plurality of dissimilar processors; and  
7        a processor grouping tool for compiling source code,  
8        the processor grouping tool comprising software code  
9        effective to:

10                receive a request from an application that  
11                is running on a first processor type, the

12 first processor type included in the  
13 plurality of dissimilar processors;  
14 assign one or more second processor types  
15 included in the plurality of dissimilar  
16 processor types and a memory space included  
17 in the memory to a group in response to the  
18 request, wherein the first processor type  
19 and the assigned second processor types are  
20 heterogeneous; and  
21 process an application execution thread  
22 using the group, the application execution  
23 thread running on the first processor type  
24 and corresponding to the application.

1 12. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 11 wherein the first processor type shares the memory  
3 space with the assigned second processor types.

1 13. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 11 wherein the software code is further effective to:  
3 identify whether the application requests the memory  
4 space to be a private memory, wherein the private  
5 memory is accessible only by the assigned second  
6 processor types; and  
7 classify the memory space as the private memory.

1 14. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 13 wherein the software code is further effective to:  
3 retrieve data from the private memory using one of the  
4 assigned second processor types;

5       manipulate the data using one of the assigned second  
6       processor types whereby the data manipulation results  
7       in resultant data; and  
  
8       store the resultant data in a shared memory included  
9       in the memory, the shared memory accessible by the  
10      first processor type.

1   15. The information handling system as described in claim  
2       11 wherein the software code is further effective to:  
3       retrieve an affinity selection bit from the  
4       application;  
  
5       determine whether the application requests affinity  
6       processor selection based upon the affinity selection  
7       bit; and  
  
8       perform the assigning using affinity processor  
9       selection.

1   16. The information handling system as described in claim  
2       15 wherein the software code is further effective to:  
3       select one of the second processor types based upon  
4       the affinity processor selection;  
  
5       determine whether the selected second processor type  
6       is available; and  
  
7       perform the assigning based upon the selected second  
8       processor type's availability.

1   17. The information handling system as described in claim  
2       11 wherein the software code is further effective to:  
3       detect that one or more of the second processor types  
4       are in use by an active execution thread;

5        identify an active priority that corresponds to the  
6        active execution thread;  
7        compare the active priority to a requesting priority,  
8        the requesting priority corresponding to the  
9        application execution thread; and  
10       terminate the active execution thread if the active  
11       priority is lower than the requesting priority.

1    18.   The information handling system as described in claim  
2        11 wherein the group corresponds to one or more group  
3        properties, wherein the group properties are selected  
4        from the group consisting of a sharing mode, a  
5        priority, and a scheduling policy.

1    19.   The information handling system as described in claim  
2        11 wherein the group includes a plurality of second  
3        processors.

1    20.   The information handling system as described in claim  
2        11 wherein the first processor type is a processing  
3        unit and wherein the second processor types are  
4        synergistic processing units.

1    21.   A computer program product stored on a computer  
2        operable media for grouping processors for a plurality  
3        of dissimilar processors, said computer program  
4        product comprising:  
5        means for receiving a request from an application that  
6        is running on a first processor type;  
7        means for assigning one or more second processor types  
8        and a memory space to a group in response to the

9 request, wherein the first processor type and the  
10 assigned second processor types are heterogeneous; and  
11 means for processing an application execution thread  
12 using the group, the application execution thread  
13 running on the first processor type and corresponding  
14 to the application.

1 22. The computer program product as described in claim 21  
2 wherein the first processor type shares the memory  
3 space with the assigned second processor types.

1 23. The computer program product as described in claim 21  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for identifying whether the application requests  
4 the memory space to be a private memory, wherein the  
5 private memory is accessible only by the assigned  
6 second processor types; and  
7 means for classifying the memory space as the private  
8 memory.

1 24. The computer program product as described in claim 23  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for retrieving data from the private memory  
4 using one of the assigned second processor types;  
5 means for manipulating the data using one of the  
6 assigned second processor types, the manipulating  
7 resulting in resultant data; and  
8 means for storing the resultant data in a shared  
9 memory, the shared memory accessible by the first  
10 processor type.

1 25. The computer program product as described in claim 21  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for retrieving an affinity selection bit from  
4 the application;  
5 means for determining whether the application requests  
6 affinity processor selection based upon the affinity  
7 selection bit; and  
8 means for performing the assigning using affinity  
9 processor selection.

1 26. The computer program product as described in claim 25  
2 wherein the performing further comprises:  
3 means for selecting one of the second processor types  
4 based upon the affinity processor selection;  
5 means for determining whether the selected second  
6 processor type is available; and  
7 means for performing the assigning based upon the  
8 selected second processor type's availability.

1 27. The computer program product as described in claim 21  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for detecting that one or more of the second  
4 processor types are in use by an active execution  
5 thread;  
6 means for identifying an active priority that  
7 corresponds to the active execution thread;  
8 means for comparing the active priority to a  
9 requesting priority, the requesting priority  
10 corresponding to the application execution thread; and



11 means for terminating the active execution thread if  
12 the active priority is lower than the requesting  
13 priority.

1 28. The computer program product as described in claim 21  
2 wherein the group corresponds to one or more group  
3 properties, wherein the group properties are selected  
4 from the group consisting of a sharing mode, a  
5 priority, and a scheduling policy.

1 29. The computer program product as described in claim 21  
2 wherein the group includes a plurality of second  
3 processors.

1 30. The computer program product as described in claim 21  
2 wherein the first processor type is a processing unit  
3 and wherein the second processor types are synergistic  
4 processing units.